

FILE

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

20 JULY 1961

~~TOP SECRET~~

SPECIAL ITEM

SITUATION IN BIZERTE as of 0800

1. The situation got out of hand yesterday, apparently when French paratroop reinforcements arrived at the base. The French, for reasons not clear, chose to drop them rather than land the aircraft. Tunisian forces around the base, perhaps believing they were being attacked, opened fire. The French state they fired only after this.

2. This morning gun fire continued. The Tunisians claim they are being strafed by French aircraft, and that French armor and infantry were used against civilian demonstrators. The French claim that Tunisian artillery opened fire on the base this morning, but deny that there has been any infantry contact.

3. On the diplomatic front, Tunisia has announced it will ask for an urgent session of the UN Security Council. Bourguiba has also said he will break relations with France. The French yesterday sent a note to Tunisia which, while attempting to calm the situation down, reiterates French determination to defend the base.

4. These developments will bear directly on the opening of negotiations at Evian today. Extremists on both sides have a much greater opportunity to sabotage the talks. Bourguiba's actions suggest he also has an eye on the adjoining Sahara.

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1. **Menshikov states conditions for reversing Soviet timetable on Berlin**

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shchev will not alter his position on the Berlin situation, or delay his stand beyond the end of the year, with one exception. That would be a high-level, four-power conference on the entire German situation, which would include the Berlin crisis." Menshikov also claimed he was misquoted in his earlier statement of American disinclination to fight for Berlin. [redacted] 50X1

2. **Abnormalities in performance of Soviet economy**

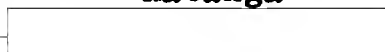
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Our preliminary analysis of published Soviet statistics for the first half of 1961 has turned up clear indications that plans for 1961 have been modified and that the economy has run into difficulties in some areas. We are not yet able to tell what these changes mean. Investment and labor productivity did not rise to the level planned; agriculture appears in better shape than last year.

3. **Mob violence possible in Tehran tomorrow.**

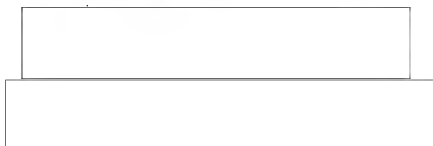
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National Front demonstrations scheduled for the anniversary of Mossadeq's re-appointment as Prime Minister have been banned by the government, but the Front apparently plans to go ahead. Military units near Tehran have been alerted, and the government began making arrests [redacted]


4. Congo situation further confused

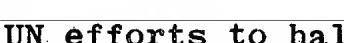



Belgian mining interests in the Katanga have apparently brought about, at least temporarily, a rapprochement between Tshombé and Army Commander Mobutu to block Gizenga's anticipated success in parliament. This agreement may have set off a move against Tshombé by his opponents in the Katanga government. MAP  50X1

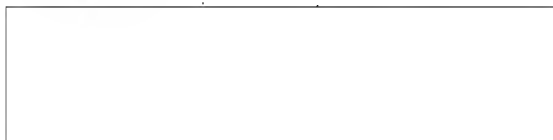
5. Indian government privately pleased with outcome of Ayub's visit to Washington 50X1




 Indian officials believe the co^{50X1}muniqué indicated no change in US policy toward either country. The references to Kashmir were "completely acceptable." Nehru, on a tour of Kashmir, bitterly denounced Ayub yesterday, but we think this was primarily for local consumption.

 UN efforts to halt skirmishing between Indian and Pakistani troops in Kashmir have so far failed.  50X1

6. Proposal for federation with Malaya and Borneo threatens a breakdown of stable government in Singapore



The ruling party, an uneasy coalition of moderate socialists and extreme leftist workers, seems to be coming apart over the issue. The moderates see federation as the only way to give Singapore a viable economy, while the extremists fear increased influence in Singapore of anti-Communist Malaya. The party has also lost two by-elections recently; this and a number of defections has reduced it to a majority of one in the assembly.  50X1

NOTES

- A. The US Air Force estimates that Soviet forces in Germany have now massed sufficient electronic countermeasure equipment between Berlin and West Germany to disrupt totally airlift operations except under visual flight conditions. [REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED]
- C. Embassy Buenos Aires reports a new press campaign urging the US to admit Argentine meat. [REDACTED]

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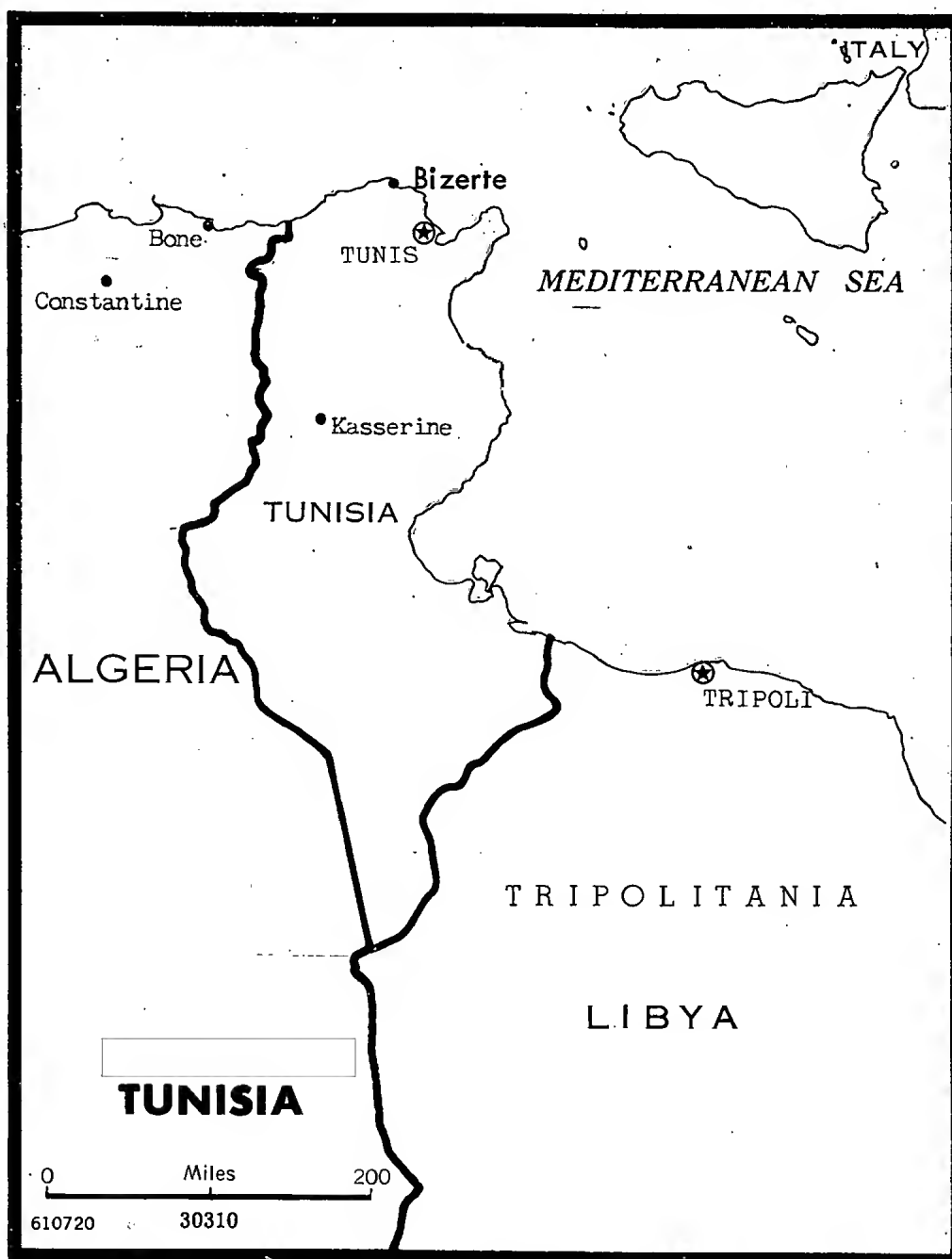
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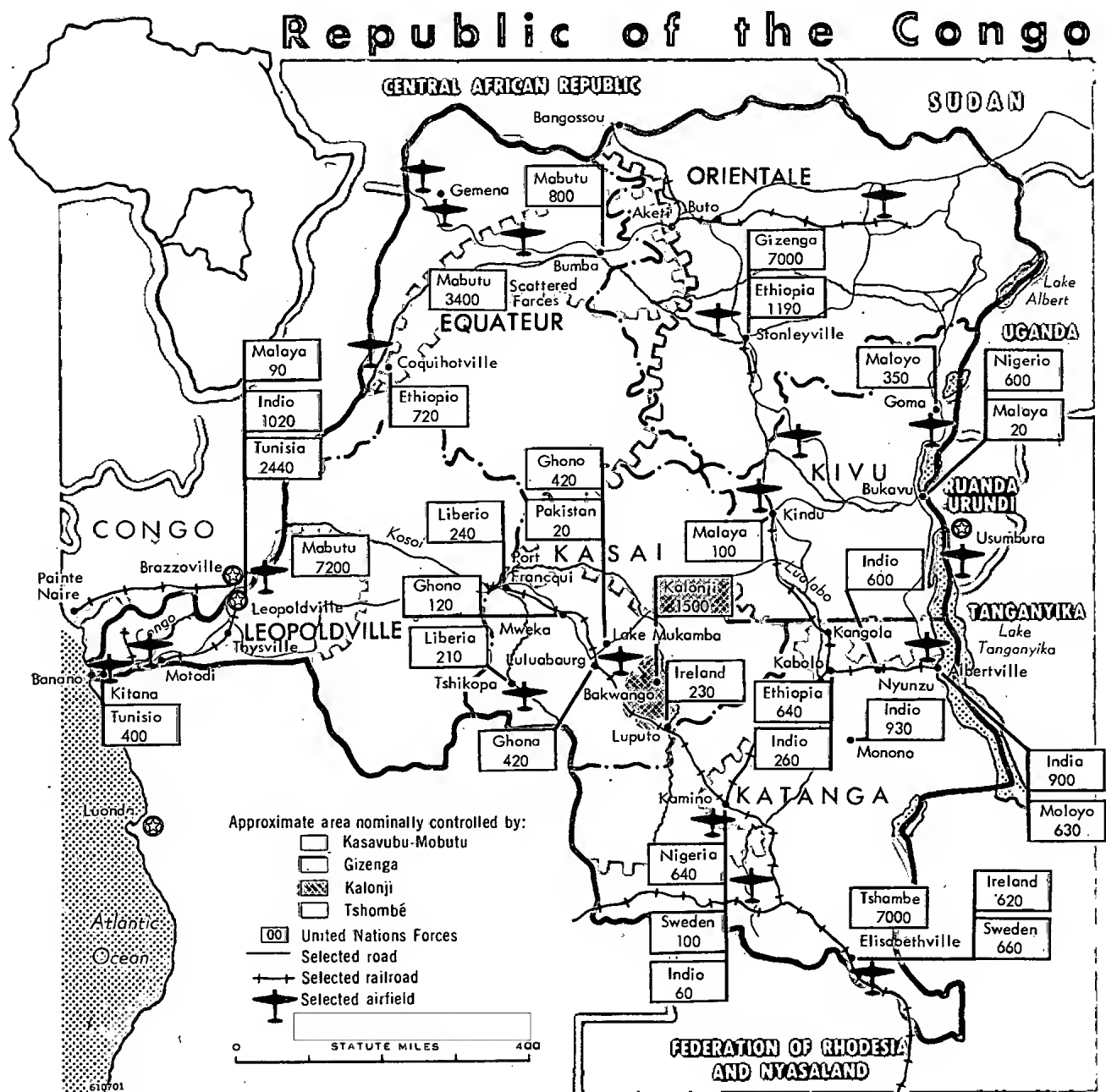
WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--19 July 1961

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

Despite evidence of growing popular dissatisfaction in East Germany, we do not believe that uprisings are imminent.



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